

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A copyright protecting method of scrambling an information
signal inputted via an input path and outputting it via an output path is
provided. First, a selected condition to eliminate copying of the
information signal via an unauthorized path is set. The selected
condition includes combinations of a plurality of types of scramble
systems applicable to the information signal and a plurality of types of
the copy control information. Then, the type of the scramble system of
10 the inputted information signal and the type of the copy control
information of the inputted information signal are discriminated.
Further, a predetermined scramble system is applied to the inputted
information signal and a scrambled output is produced when a
combination of the discriminated type of the scramble system and the
15 discriminated type of the copy control information coincides with that
included in the selected condition.